Homemaker News
EXCLUSIVE TO STATE EXTENSION EDITORS
U.S.D.A. PRESS SERVICE, OFFICE OF INFORMATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE

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HOME ACCOUNTS

Autumn is a good time to start account keeping. By the first of the year it will be easier to plan for 1940 as a whole. And for many homemakers, the opening of school and the change from summer to fall clothing makes this season seem like the beginning of the year.

Farm women in many States keep accounts as a home demonstration project. They use the special farm home account book which was designed by the Bureau of Home Economics. It sells for 15 cents, and is obtained from the Government Printing Office. But any composition book may be ruled for use as an account book if the record-keeper wishes to prepare his or her own forms.

To be really useful an account book sorts the expenditures under such separate heads as "Food," "Household Operation," "Personal," "Automobile," and so on. This makes it possible to compare the expenditures for a given item, as food, in one month or year with those of other months or years.

Expenditures should be planned before spending begins. A plan for spending is a budget. If household accounts are available, they will provide useful facts upon which to base a spending plan. Without accounts, expenditures may be estimated rather closely if the family members list the larger purchases made during the preceding year and supplement their memories by receipted bills. For the farm family, a plan for spending should be accompanied by a plan for home-production of food.

One advantage of the Bureau of Home Economics' account book is that it has pages for writing down things furnished by the farm for family living. Another good feature is the page provided for listing large expenses that occur from time to time but not every month. No two months are exactly alike in most families. So it is important in drawing up a plan or budget to know which months include extra heavy expenses, and then make a plan for meeting them.

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E R R O R in Homemaker News No. 362 - HOME ACCOUNTS

An incorrect price for the farm home account book designed by the Bureau of Home Economics and for sale by the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., was quoted in the Homemaker News story No. 362, October 4.

The CORRECT price is ..... 20 cents. Sorry.

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